

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

As indicated below, Applicant is amending Claims 1, 14 and 18 is canceling Claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3–6, 9, 12, 13, 15–17 and 19–22 remain as previously presented, and new Claims 23–25 have been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A data retrieval system comprising:

a first computing device having a processor that supports operation of a software application and an interface module for retrieving data for the software application;

a second computing device communicatively coupled to the first computing device and to one or more storage media for storing the data;

a third computing device communicatively coupled to the interface module of the first computing device and to the second computing device, the third computing device storing a storage and backup map that maps the data to the second computing device; and

a data index stored on the second computing device that indicates a particular location of the data on the one or more storage media that is to be retrieved by the interface module of the first computing device, the data index comprising different information than the storage and backup map.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the software application interoperates with a backup retrieval module.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the software application interoperates with a file system program.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device further comprises a file browser that is dynamic and changes to reflect information regarding the data to be retrieved.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device further comprises a file browser that may be modified to display information regarding the data to be retrieved specified by a user.

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein a user may interact with the file browser to define a temporal range that specifies certain data to be retrieved.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first computing device is capable of retrieving the data without knowing the location of the data when the data is requested by the software application.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first, second and third computing devices are located remotely to each other and are communicatively coupled through a network.
14. (Currently Amended) A data retrieval system comprising:
 - a plurality of storage media;
 - a plurality of computing devices communicatively coupled to the plurality of storage media;
 - a processor coupled to the plurality of computing devices and configured to request data stored on the plurality of storage media;
 - a retrieval module for retrieving the requested data from the plurality of storage media, the retrieval module comprising a storage and backup map that maps the requested data to at least one of the plurality of computing devices; and
 - a data index stored on the at least one of the plurality of computing devices that indicates to the retrieval module a particular location of the requested data on the plurality of storage media, the data index comprising different information than the storage and backup map.
15. (Previously Presented) The data retrieval system of Claim 14, wherein the processor is programmed to support operation of a software application that

requests the data, the software application being programmed to display a toolbar allowing access to particular characteristics of a file of the requested data.

16. (Previously Presented) The data retrieval system of Claim 14, wherein the processor is associated with a first computing device and the retrieval module is associated with a second computing device, the first and second computing devices each being remote to the plurality of computing devices.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein the first computing device is capable of retrieving the requested data without knowing the location of the requested data prior to accessing the storage and backup map.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving data in a computer system, the method comprising:

activating a retrieval module of a first computing device to find a particular location of data requested by a second computing device;

selecting with the retrieval module one of a plurality of third computing devices associated with at least one storage media storing the requested data, said selecting with the retrieval module being based at least in part upon instructions contained in a storage map;

determining according to a data index stored on the selected third computing device the particular location of the requested data on the at least one storage media coupled to the selected third computing device, the data index comprising different information than the storage map; and

retrieving an indication of the requested data from the particular location on the at least one storage media.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein said retrieving further comprises displaying a backup history of at least a portion of the requested data.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the storage map is stored on the first computing device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising updating the data index when the requested data is moved within the at least one storage media.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising updating the storage map when the requested data is moved from the at least one storage media to a second storage media coupled to another of the plurality of third computing devices.

23. (New) A system for retrieving data in a computer network environment, the system comprising:

- a plurality of storage media;

- a plurality of media modules in communication with the plurality of storage media, each of the plurality of media modules being configured to store and retrieve data from the plurality of storage media, the plurality of media modules executing on a first plurality of computing devices;

- a second computing device configured to support the operation of at least one software application requesting data to be retrieved from at least one of the plurality of storage media, the second computing device coupled to the first plurality of computing devices through a network, the second computing device further comprising an interface module configured to receive from at least one of the plurality of media modules the data to be retrieved;

- a plurality of indexes, each of the plurality of indexes being stored on one of the first plurality of computing devices and being maintained by the respective media module executing on the same computing device, at least one of the plurality of indexes further identifying a specific location on the at least one of the plurality of storage media where the data to be retrieved is stored;

- a retrieval manager executing on a third computing device, the third computing device coupled to the first plurality of computing devices and to the second computing device through the network; and

- a storage map stored on the third computing device and maintained by the retrieval manager, the storage map providing, through the retrieval manager, an indication to the interface module as to which of the plurality of indexes has information regarding the most recent location of the data to be retrieved from the at least one of the plurality of storage media.

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24. (New) The system of Claim 23, wherein the most recent location of the data to be retrieved is different than the location where the data to be retrieved was first stored on the plurality of storage media.

25. (New) The system of Claim 24, wherein the second computing device is unaware of the most recent location of the data to be retrieved prior to the request by the at least one software application.